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23 March 1961

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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GENERAL. [] called for Gen. Cabell on March 22nd, and requested that [] discuss with INR possible arrangements for the delivery of all "Roger Channel" cables and despatches to the Non-CIA Cable Branch in order that this traffic be centrally recorded, distributed, and controlled. The matter of delivery of these items to a central point in CIA was raised when a "Roger Channel" cable was delivered directly to Gen. Cabell's office.

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[] called on Mr. Shepard C. Lowman, Staff Assistant, Office of the Director of Intelligence and Research (INR), Department of State, on March 22nd, to discuss the distribution and delivery of "Roger Channel" cables and despatches to CIA.

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1. [] briefed Mr. Lowman on the mission of the Non-CIA Cable Branch and informed him of the recent transfer of the Non-CIA Cable Branch to the Cable Secretariat, Office of the Director. It was pointed out that the Non-CIA Cable Branch was the central point in the Agency for the receipt, dissemination, distribution, control, and files of all Non-CIA cables received by CIA.

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2. [] on behalf of Gen. Cabell, requested, if possible, that all "Roger Channel" cables and despatches be directed to the Non-CIA Cable Branch in order that the Agency may have a central record of the receipt and disposition of these items. It was pointed out that while certain "Roger Channel" cables are designated for specific officials of CIA, these should not necessarily be delivered directly to the CIA official as the Non-CIA Cable Branch gives these items priority of handling and has the means to effect rapid delivery to the recipient.

3. Mr. Lowman recognized the necessity of a central control point and agreed to send "Roger Channel" cables and despatches to the Non-CIA Cable Branch. However, he pointed out that this arrangement would not be possible or feasible in certain instances. He cited the instances of the high level telephone conversations between State and CIA officials whereby arrangements are made for direct delivery when the matter is of utmost urgency. He also mentioned the fact that Mr. Scott (Under Secretary's office) receives copies of the "Roger Channel" traffic and occasionally sends a copy directly to specified officials in CIA. In this case, Mr. Lowman will furnish the Non-CIA Cable Branch with the cable citation as well as the CIA recipient in order that the Non-CIA Cable Branch have a record of the cable.

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4. [] informed Mr. Lowman that the Non-CIA Cable Branch was physically located across the hall from the CIA Courier Office and he could make arrangements for a CIA Courier to make a pickup whenever these items become available for CIA.

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